

September 10, 2014

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Economic Development**

On behalf of the Detroit Regional Chamber and in collaboration with MICHauto, I'd like to thank you for the opportunity to briefly comment on the subject being discussed today.

MICHauto is one of the key economic development initiatives of the Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, and is dedicated to promoting, retaining, and growing the automotive industry in Michigan. We currently represent over 80 members across the state of Michigan ranging from manufacturing, supply, transportation, research, and many other facets of the industry.

The MICHauto objective is to serve as the unified voice of Michigan's automotive industry and provide opportunity to collaborate on matters related to awareness, business attraction, and talent attraction and retention. With that in mind, today's topic of discussion is very relevant to MICHauto's mission, as well as the advocacy priorities of us at the Detroit Regional Chamber.

Michigan continues to be the global epicenter of the automotive industry and we are proud to be a part of its rich heritage and progressive future. It is the pillar of our communities; our heritage; our legacy, and our future.

- Michigan has received nearly \$14 billion in automotive investment since 2010.
- The industry has an estimated economic impact of nearly \$57 billion.
- Michigan serves as the headquarters of 61 of North America's top 100 suppliers.
- The industry supports over 513,000 jobs, and Michigan has added more than 30,000 since 2010.

As we've learned in Michigan, this is not an industry we can take for granted. We need to continue to promote a strong pace of innovation and leadership in our state. The recent creation of the Automotive Industry Office within the MEDC is a testament to this administration's commitment to the industry, and we appreciate that the legislature has also recognized their role and their ability to provide support.

Any economic growth strategy must be designed with an eye towards the future. The development of autonomous vehicles, battery optimization, greater fuel efficiency, and clean energy have amazing potential to reinvent this industry and set the new standard for tomorrow's automobile.

We fully support, in concept, efforts to incentivize research and investment in these areas. We appreciate the efforts of this committee and the consideration you are giving on this issue, and we look forward to hopefully reviewing more detailed legislation soon.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to share some brief thoughts on the issue; we hope to continue serving as a strong and vocal partner for the continued growth of Michigan's largest industry.

Regards,

  
Jason Puscas

Director, Government Relations